

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5693

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TAGS: CASC (VAN VLIET, STUART AND SABANSKAS, JEROME JOSEPH)

SUBJECT: PRESS RELEASE FROM WASHINGTON POST JULY 19

REF: STATE 140672, 141652, 141972 AND 142122; OUR 7660, 7822

SUMMARY. THE EMBASSY SENT A CONSULAR LOCAL TO MEERUT ON JUNE 29 AND AGAIN ON JULY 13 TO SEE VAN VLIET AND SABANSKAS IN THE HOSPITAL. THEY WERE GIVEN MONEY TWICE AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR THEIR MOVE TO DELHI WERE OFFERED TO THEM IF THEY WOULD PAY FOR THIS, BUT THE PATIENTS REFUSED. THEY FINALLY AGREED TO COME TO DELHI ON JULY 13. THE EMBASSY ARRANGED FOR THEM TO BE ADMITTED TO AN EXCELLENT LOCAL HOSPITAL WHERE THEIR INJURIES WERE REDIAGNOSED AND TREATED, AND THEY WERE BOTH DISCHARGED ON JULY 19 AND ARE WANDERING AROUND DELHI. WE ARE TRYING TO FIND THEIR PRESENT WHEREABOUTS. END SUMMARY.

1. AS SOON AS EMBASSY INFORMED OF AUTOMOBILE ACCIDENT INVOLVING SUBJECTS, FSL RAMAMURTY PROCEEDED MEERUT JUNE TWENTYNINE. HE MET ALL INJURED. DIAGNOSIS AT THAT TIME REPORTED NEW DELHI 7660. HE ALSO SPOKE WITH DR. MATHUR, MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT, HOSPITAL. PATIENTS COMPLAINED REGARDING BAD CONDITIONS AND DIET IN HOSPITAL BUT DOCTOR ASSUMED US THEY WOULD BE GIVEN EUROPEAN FOOD. THEY HAD NO OTHER COMPLAINTS. ON OTHER HAND, DOCTOR REMARKED THEY WERE NOISY AND RARELY WERE IN THEIR BEDS. THEY DEMANDED HOSPITAL PROVIDE THEM WITH FREE CIGARETTES. THEY EXPRESSED DESIRE MOVE TO DELHI BUT ON CONDITION ALL EXPENSES MET BY EMBASSY. SINCE THEY HAD NO MONEY EMBASSY LOANED THEM SMALL SUM. HOSPITAL STAY WAS FREE OF CHARGE.

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MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT OFFERED THEM AN AMBULANCE TO PROCEED DELHI

PROVIDING THIS EXPENSE PAID, BUT PATIENTS REFUSED STATING THEIR TREATMENT AND WELFARE ENTIRELY EMBASSY RESPONSIBILITY. VAN VLIET STATED REPEATEDLY HE FOUGHT IN VIET NAM AND HENCE USG RESPONSIBLE FOR HIS WELFARE.

2. ON JULY 2, 6 PM CONSULAR OFFICER RECEIVED PHONE CALL FROM BRITISH CONSUL QUOTING REPORT FROM CAPTAIN PRICE, THEIR REPRESENTATIVE IN MEERUT, STATING SABANSKAS CONDITION WORSENING. HOWEVER DOCTOR IN MEERUT SAID THIS INFO INCORRECT AND REITERATED BOTH PATIENTS IMPROVING. DOCTOR AGAIN COMPLAINED ABOUT BEHAVIOUR VAN VLIET. HE THREW FOOD AT NURSE, WAS NOISY AND RARELY IN BED.

3. JULY 7: CAPTAIN PRICE VISITED EMBASSY AND REPEATED STORY VAN VLIET ILL AND SUFFERING FROM HEPATITIS. EMBASSY AGAIN SPOKE WITH DR. MATHUR IN PRESENCE PRICE. DOCTOR EXPRESSED SURPRISE AND CONFIRMED VAN VLIET'S DISEASE WAS UNDER CONTROL, STATED NO CAUSE FOR ALARM AND PRICE'S REPORT BASELESS.

4. JULY 10. MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT WAS INFORMED BY EMBASSY TELEGRAM TO NOTIFY VAN VLIET HIS MONEY RECEIVED BY AMEXCO.

5. JULY 12. BRIDGELAND, REUTER REPORTER AND FRIEND OF PRICE, TELEPHONED CONSULAR OFFICER AND STATED VAN VLIET AND SABANSKAS WERE QUITE IN BAD SHAPE UNQUOTE. DOCTOR MATHUR WAS IMMEDIATELY CONTACTED AND STATED THIS REPORT INCORRECT.

6. JULY 13. RAMAMURTY PROCEEDED MEERUT SECOND TIME AND VISITED PATIENTS. THEY WERE AGAIN TOLD THAT AMBULANCE TO TAKE THEM TO DELHI AND HOSPITALIZATION IN DELHI CAN BE ARRANGED PROVIDED THEY WILLING BEAR EXPENSES. WHILE THEIR INITIAL RESPONSE WAS NEGATIVE, THEY LATER AGREED AND IT WAS SUGGESTED THEY LEAVE SAME AFTERNOON FOR DELHI. EMBASSY HAD ARRANGED WITH HOLY FAMILY HOSPITAL FOR THEIR ADMISSION. THEY WERE THEN OFFERED AN ADDITIONAL CASH LOAN AND ACCEPTED.

7. JULY 16. THEY ARRIVED DELHI AND BY COURTESY DR. NPS CHAWLA PROMINENT SPECIALIST IN NEW DELHI WERE ADMITTED IN NURSING HOME AT MINIMUM COST. CHAWLA'S DIAGNOSIS OF VAN VLIET: COMPRESSION FRACTURES OF SPINE INVOLVING D-10, D-11 AND D-12, CONFIRMED BY X-RAYS. THIS WAS NOT REPEAT NOT DIAGNOSED IN MEERUT. HE WAS ALSO UNCLASSIFIED

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EXAMINED BY DR. J S ARORA, ORTHOPEDIC SPECIALIST. SABANSKAS: DISLOCATION OF RIGHT HIP. HAD BEEN TREATED IN MEERUT. BOTH DISCHARGED NINETEENTH. SABANSKAS NOW WALKING ON CRUTCHES. VAN VLIET WILL GET TAYLOR BRACE FOR SPINE. HE REQUIRES SHORT WAVE DIATHERMY. ARRANGEMENT MADE FOR THIS. HE HAS RECOVERED FROM HEPATITIS. IS MOVING AROUND. DR. CHAWLA SAYS VAN VLIET AND SABANSKAS CAN TRAVEL HOME WHENEVER THEY DESIRE.

8. PRESENTLY THEIR WHEREABOUTS NOT KNOWN. THEY ARE IN DELHI AND
EMBASSY'S EFFORTS CONTACT THEM CONTINUING. (DR. CHAWLA'S MEDICAL
REPORT BEING POUCHED.)MOYNIHAN

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